

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 15, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 19 have been amended. Claims 22 and 23 are newly added. No claims are canceled. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found at least at paragraph [0042] page 10 of Applicants' Specification. Support for new claims 22 and 23 can be found at least at [0037-0038] page 9 of Applicants' Specification. Claims 20 and 21 have previously been withdrawn per Applicants' provisional election of Group I (claims 1-19 readable thereon) in the Response to Restriction Requirement dated March 7, 2005. Accordingly, claims 1-19 and 22-23 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 12, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) / 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly anticipated by, or in the alternative, as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,129,804 (to Gaynes et al.)(hereinafter "Gaynes"). Claims 1, 12 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0062787 A1 (to Hashizume et al.)(hereinafter "Hashizume"). Claims 2-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Gaynes or Hashizume and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0043344 A1 (to Watanabe et al.)(hereinafter "Watanabe") and U.S. Patent No. 5,961,777 (to Kakinuma)(hereinafter "Kakinuma"). Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Gaynes or Hashizume and further in view of Japanese Laid Open Patent Application Publication No. 2001-356353 (to Satoshi)(hereinafter "Satoshi").

At the outset, Applicants object to the Examiner's statement, "Applicant argues that Gaynes In any event, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to have utilized loading stations on one side and unloading stations on the other." (Office Action at page 3). Applicant has not argued that Gaynes, or any of the cited references, render the claimed subject matter obvious. It appears as if the Examiner meant to say, "... Examiner argues that Gaynes In any event ..." instead of "Applicant."

The rejection of claims 1-19 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-19 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recite a combination of elements including, for example, "at least one loader arranged at the first side of the substrate bonding station for loading the unbonded first and second substrates into the substrate bonding station; at least one unloader arranged at the second side for unloading bonded ones of the first and second substrates, wherein the substrate bonding station includes third and fourth sides, wherein the third side is proximate the fourth side; and a sealing member wherein the sealing member thickness is set according to a pressure applied to the first and second glass substrates." None of the cited references including, Gaynes, Hashizume, Watanabe, Kakinuma or Satoshi, singly or in any combination, teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2-19, which depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

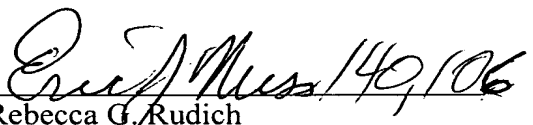
Applicants believe the foregoing arguments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

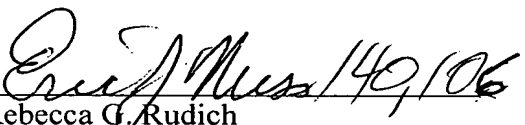
Dated: October 5, 2006

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